

Vietnam memorial gains vets' respect

By MIKE BILLINGTON

Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

He stood in the center of the room and slowly shook his head as Jan Scruggs described his plans for a memorial to the men and women who died in Vietnam.

"Why does our memorial have to be a hole in the ground? It isn't right," said Jerry Bowman, who served with an advisory team in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

That was 1981.

These days Bowman, a counselor who works with homeless veterans and their families in Buffalo, N.Y., thinks the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is both unique and appropriate.

"Once I actually went to Washington and saw it, my opinion changed," Bowman said. "It's ours; it's unique; ... it's special; there's nothing else like it."



Last week, the United States threatened to impose stiff tariffs on French white wines and other Eu-

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before Thanksgiving. One senior adviser said Clinton would not necessarily name his top economic advisers prior to the meeting.

The Clinton aides said among the first orders of transition business this week would be creating "cluster groups" to study government policy and help more senior transition aides build a government. Likely subject areas for the groups include economic policy, national security, foreign policy, health care and agriculture, said the aides, speaking privately.

After a weekend of jogging, golf and going to a Tom Selleck movie, "Mr. Baseball," with his family, Clinton was conferring today with the director of his transition team, Warren Christopher, and meeting with his state-government Cabinet.

Clinton went jogging before daybreak today, running through a slight mist along downtown streets, even dodging cars at one intersection. He then stopped at a YMCA to exercise before beginning his meetings.

Al Gore, the vice president-elect, was flying in for talks with Clinton after a weekend at his home in Tennessee.

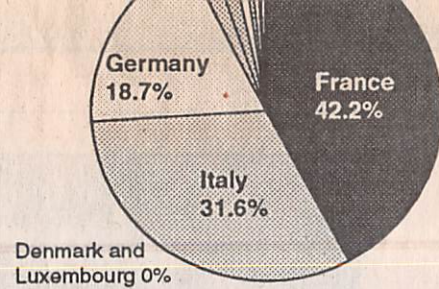
British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, the meeting's chair, said, "The idea that the EC and the U.S. are going to blunder into some kind of trade war with all that is at stake now is, I believe, inconceivable."

"We have to avoid that — and I would be surprised if that wasn't the emphasis today," he said before the meeting began.

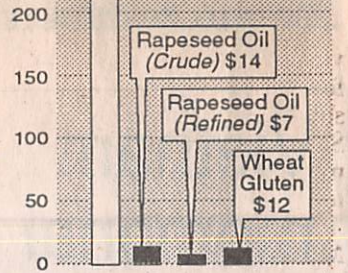
In London, British Agriculture Secretary John Gummer said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.: "We are so close to agreement that to have a world trade war because we cannot clinch that last tiny bit would be a very serious thing indeed."

He said France "will suffer much more than many other countries if there is a trade war."

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, said, "We really do have to try once again (to negotiate) because it would be too



Source: Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities



AP/Wm. J. Castello

stupid if the United States and Europe started to throw tariffs at each other — too stupid."

The Netherlands' foreign affairs chief, Hans van den Broek, said Europe "should try to avoid escalation."

The Bush administration vowed to slap sanctions on \$300 million worth of goods exported to the United States after the two sides failed to break an impasse over European subsidies to its oil seed producers. The United States

claims the supports cost U.S. producers \$1 billion a year in lost sales.

In announcing the action on Thursday, Washington gave the community 30 days to end the subsidies.

The dispute over oil seed supports and a broader disagreement over EC farm subsidies in general have blocked agreement in the Uruguay Round negotiations, an ambitious effort by 108 nations to overhaul the world trading system.

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ture student Maya Ying Lin. The fact that an Asian woman had designed the memorial drew cries of outrage from some veterans.

"Yeah, there was some racism involved," said Bowman, who was working in a Vietnam Era Veterans Outreach Center at the time. "I heard a lot of it."

To silence some of the criticism,

versy. Women who served in Vietnam demanded to know why a woman was not included in that grouping.

Egan said women will dedicate a statue at the site next year.

"It's taken a long time to cut through the red tape to get it done, but it's getting done," he said.

Jim Burns, a spokesman for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, said he thinks most of the controversy began because people could not really envision The Wall when they looked at two-dimen-

ed," he said.

"It is now considered holy ground, which is why we felt it was appropriate to have a 10th-anniversary celebration and why so many are coming to be a part of it," Burns said. He estimates that 200,000 people will attend the celebration.

The highlight is the reading of the names on the memorial. That started at noon Sunday and will continue around the clock until 9 a.m. Wednesday. More than 1,000 volunteers from all over the coun-